

David W. Beer  
1490 Spring Valley Road  
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January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have been following litigation for the last three years against Microsoft and am happy to see that the matter was settled in November in the antitrust case. I am happy to see that Microsoft is not being broken up, and that true innovation can continue. This business simply cannot be regulated in any way that discourages innovation, especially since the business models change so frequently.

Microsoft has been a huge asset to my business and particularly to our country through product and service development, employment, education, and philanthropy. It is our opinion that Microsoft has done much more good for our nation's economy than bad.

Because of their contributions they should be rewarded, and they have been monetarily rewarded in the past, but I hope the penalties address only the practice of business and not the practice of innovation. In this context, penalties should be enforced for malicious law breakers, and not for aggressive but law abiding business practices.

I am particularly annoyed with Sun Microsystems. We all have competitors, and they have, in the long run, benefited from the competition.

I hope the nine states in opposition to settlement will end their quarrels and let private enterprises return to focusing on business, innovation, and not politics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Beer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Beer